I. The state of disaster risk

1. Twenty-five years after the proclamation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and 10 years since the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters was endorsed by the General Assembly, global disaster risk continues to accumulate faster than it is being reduced. Economic losses have reached an average of $250 billion to $300 billion a year, severely affecting stable economic growth in low- and middle-income countries and eroding development gains in vulnerable communities.

2. Despite significant progress in spreading a culture of disaster risk reduction around the world over the past decade of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action, the international community is running to a standstill as economic losses grow and mortality remains stubbornly high in many parts of the world. The *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015: Making Development Sustainable — The Future of Disaster Risk Management*, which was launched in March 2015 in New York, highlights the pressing need to address the underlying factors that amplify the impact of natural hazards and technological and biological disasters. Drivers of risk that contribute most to the increase in global risk levels are poverty and inequality, climate change and variability, unplanned and rapid urbanization, lack of responsible land management, and such compounding factors as demographic change, unsustainable use of natural resources, and declining ecosystems. The global multi-hazard risk assessment using a probabilistic modelling technique developed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and its partners has estimated the annual risk only from earthquakes, floods, tropical cyclones and tsunamis at $360 billion.

3. The deadliest single disaster triggered by a natural hazard during the reporting period resulted from two earthquakes in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, that occurred on 25 April and 12 May 2015. The scale of the impact indicates that more could have been done to address the underlying risk factors. Thanks to actors that include the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium and the National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal, some work has been done in recent years on retrofitting a small number of schools and health facilities, but as in many hazard-exposed countries the challenge remains one of bringing that work to scale. Recovery needs, at $6.6 billion, represent more than 25 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Early estimates suggest that 1 million people have fallen into poverty as a result of those disasters, at a time when Nepal was expected to meet some of the Millennium Development Goals. That disaster typifies the challenge that low-income countries face, particularly from intensive disaster events.

4. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is a major public health emergency of international concern and the largest and most complex Ebola outbreak on record. The widespread and intense transmission has had grave health, social and economic consequences. This reflects the need outlined in the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction to be integrated into national health systems and for developing the capacity of health workers to understand disaster risk. Ebola and other pandemics highlight the need to strengthen country-level capacity in disaster risk management for health, the implementation of the International Health Regulations and the building of resilient health systems.

5. The plight of small island developing States was brought home at the opening on 14 March 2015 of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, when the President of Vanuatu briefed participants on the impact that very day of category 5 cyclone Pam, which brought death and destruction to his scattered island home. By all accounts, the National Disaster Management Office of Vanuatu and the Vanuatu Red Cross performed well in communicating early warnings and saving lives, but the cyclone left much of the population without housing and vulnerable to vector-borne disease as the rainy season started. The Asian Development Bank reports that the Vanuatu economy grew by 3.6 per cent in 2014, but that figure will likely contract in 2015, following cyclone Pam. There has been extensive damage to the power grid, and up to 96 per cent of crops were destroyed. Approximately 14,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. It is a reality that threatens many small island developing States concerned about rising sea levels, extreme weather events and other features of climate change, which are raising levels of exposure and vulnerability in many parts of the world.

6. Frequent and small-scale disasters were a feature of the past year. Urban and rural areas alike, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, experience regular small disasters that undermine development. The extensive risk of large numbers of recurrent, small-scale disasters associated mainly with flash floods, landslides, urban flooding, storms, fires and other localized events is not captured by global risk modelling; nor are the losses reported internationally. When extensive risk manifests as real damage and loss, it is usually absorbed by low-income households, communities and small businesses. Over the past decade, the equivalent of $94 billion in reported losses was associated with extensive risk in the 85 countries and territories for which data are available, according to the *Global Assessment Report*, representing an ongoing erosion of development assets, such as houses, schools, health facilities, roads and other local infrastructure.

7. Through improved research methodology, it will be possible to provide a clearer understanding of how exposure and vulnerability to risk are changing across the globe and the impact of changing risk levels on development. Good-quality data on hazards, demography and the vulnerability of physical assets are crucial. Work is continuing on the development of national disaster loss databases, which numbered 82 by mid-2015.

II. Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

8. The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was held in Sendai from 14 to 18 March 2015, was the first in a series of United Nations conferences scheduled in 2015 and 2016 to determine the post-2015 development agenda. The outcome of the World Conference, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, is designed to complement and reinforce other expected outcomes from the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

9. Several donors supported the process of ensuring full engagement in the development of the Sendai Framework by the major groups and other civil society participants, including persons living with disabilities, the private sector, intergovernmental organizations and the United Nations system. The generous support of Switzerland, which hosted the preparatory process, and Japan, which hosted the World Conference, is worth highlighting in that regard.

10. More than 6,500 delegates attended the World Conference, including 25 Heads of State and Government and Vice-Presidents and well over 100 ministers. The intergovernmental segment included substantive contributions by all stakeholders across the five ministerial round tables and three high-level multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, in which representatives of the major groups and other stakeholders were present. In addition, 34 multi-stakeholder sessions were held, focusing on progress made under the Hyogo Framework for Action, emerging risks, and commitments made to the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Outside the formal confines of the World Conference, more than 700 local and international side events were held as part of the public forum, attended by more than 50,000 people.

11. The level of inclusiveness for persons with disabilities at the World Conference set a new standard, and it was considered to have been the most barrier-free United Nations meeting to date. The venue was accessible, as was the work of the Conference, through the provision of sign language interpretation, Braille documentation and closed captioning. The Conference also delivered on the United Nations commitment to be "paper-smart", with only a fraction of printing compared with other international conferences.

III. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

12. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted as the successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action by the World Conference on 18 March and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/283 on 3 June 2015.

13. The Sendai Framework is the outcome of consultations involving all stakeholders between March 2012 and July 2014 and of intergovernmental negotiations from July 2014 until the closing of the World Conference. This included the deliberations at the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2013 and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and their ministerial segments throughout 2014.

14. The Sendai Framework maps out a broad, people-centred approach to disaster risk reduction and applies to the risk of small- and large-scale disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels and within and across sectors. Strong political leadership and commitment are required to achieve the outcome.

15. The Sendai Framework advocates a shift in focus from managing disasters to managing risk, and the implementation of sustainable development, economic growth and environmental and climate change-related policies that prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing risk and strengthen resilience. Consequently,

the Sendai Framework can be used to interpret other instruments to ensure that, in their implementation, risk is taken into account and managed.

16. The expected outcome places emphasis on the reduction of disaster risk in addition to the reduction of losses, and in that context losses may be considered as indicators of development that is not risk-informed and thus not sustainable. The seven global targets introduce the possibility of measuring progress vis-à-vis the expected outcome, and the related monitoring offers feedback on how to further strengthen relevant policies and implementation mechanisms across sectors. The seven targets are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

17. The seven global targets in the Sendai Framework are:

(a) Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;

(b) Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015;

(c) Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP by 2030;

(d) Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;

(e) Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;

(f) Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the Framework by 2030;

(g) Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

18. The articulation of the four priorities for action according to local and national, as well as regional and global, levels will assist in focusing efforts and strengthening cooperation. The Sendai Framework also defines the shared responsibility of stakeholders and the important role that they can and need to play in disaster risk reduction, in particular their expected contributions to the implementation of the priorities for action.

19. The Sendai Framework focuses on: the need for improved understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of exposure, vulnerability and hazard characteristics; the strengthening of disaster risk governance, including national platforms for disaster risk reduction; accountability in disaster risk management; the need to prepare to "build back better"; a strong call for the strengthened use of science and technology in policymaking; the mobilization of risk-sensitive investment to avoid the creation of new risk; the resilience of critical infrastructure, including health infrastructure, and of cultural heritage and workplaces; and the role of local authorities and communities.

20. The Sendai Framework calls for the strengthening of international cooperation and global partnership and risk-informed donor policies and programmes, including

financial support and loans from international financial institutions, and recognizes the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms, as well as national platforms, as mechanisms for coherence across agendas, monitoring and periodic reviews of implementation, including of targets.

21. The guiding principles are important for the implementation of the four priorities for action. Six of the principles are particularly important and define the primary responsibility of States to prevent and reduce disaster risk, including through cooperation; shared responsibility between central and local authorities, sectors and stakeholders; protection of persons and their assets, while promoting and protecting all human rights, including the right to development; all-of-society engagement; engagement of all State institutions of an executive and legislative nature at the national and local levels; and coherence of policies, plans, practices and mechanisms across different sectors and agendas.

Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

22. The implementation of the Sendai Framework will build on the ongoing efforts of States already initiated under the Hyogo Framework for Action. A smooth transition from the Hyogo Framework to the Sendai Framework is required to ensure that ongoing initiatives are not disrupted, while progressively integrating the new elements agreed upon in Sendai. I am happy to note that this is already happening with remarkable rapidity in all regions. Within months of the adoption by the World Conference of the Sendai Framework, major gatherings have already taken place in the Americas, Asia and Africa to work on plans of action to implement the Sendai Framework. A meeting will be held in Europe to discuss implementation later in the year. Several countries have taken the initiative to have the Sendai Framework translated into national languages.

23. At the national level, States will need to identify focal points for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. In doing so, States may want to consider ensuring that the cross-cutting nature of disaster risk reduction is taken into account and that focal points are empowered to represent all sectors.

24. The agreed target of a substantial increase in the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 may warrant the need to give special attention over the coming years to assessing disaster risk, defining baselines for risk trends and developing strategies accordingly. With that in mind, a number of States have already initiated stocktaking exercises and cross-institutional discussions on what may be needed to implement the Sendai Framework.

25. The implementation of the Sendai Framework requires a better understanding of risk. The Framework calls for the enhanced development and dissemination of science-based methodologies and tools to record and share disaster losses and relevant disaggregated data and statistics, as well as to strengthen disaster risk modelling, assessment, mapping and monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems to underpin risk-informed decision-making.

26. The Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor will be updated to reflect the Sendai Framework. The indicators to be used to measure progress in achieving the global targets will be developed by the open-ended intergovernmental working group on indicators and terminology established by the General Assembly in June 2015. The monitoring of the Sendai Framework will start in 2017, once baselines

have been agreed upon. Global communication and practical guidance are being prepared to assist States and stakeholders in implementing the Sendai Framework.

27. More than 460 voluntary commitments were made before and during the World Conference. The World Conference adopted a resolution in which it welcomed the stakeholders' expression of voluntary commitments to reduce disaster risk and invited further expressions of voluntary commitments and the creation of partnerships to implement the Sendai Framework. A comprehensive analysis, the establishment of an online registry and the development of a reporting mechanism are being undertaken to support stakeholders in the implementation of their commitments.

IV. International cooperation and partnership

28. In the Sendai Framework, Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of international cooperation and global partnership in supporting developing and especially vulnerable and exposed countries, through the enhanced provision of means of implementation, in managing disaster risk.

29. International cooperation has been fundamental to the preparations for the World Conference and its outcome. That support includes such mechanisms as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional platforms and tools, including the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor and the voluntary peer reviews among countries.

30. The next session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in 2017 and will be an important opportunity to take stock of the initial steps in implementing the Sendai Framework, including the conduct of risk assessments and definition of baselines, as well as the implementation of the voluntary commitments of stakeholders. The preparatory process of the Global Platform will build on the deliberations of the regional platforms to be held in 2016.

31. The World Conference invited the General Assembly to consider including the review of global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of its follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate. As discussions continue on the strengthening of the Council and on the working methods of the high-level political forum, Member States may want to ensure that the deliberations of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional platforms and their review of progress on the Sendai Framework inform the agendas of the relevant United Nations governance bodies and mechanisms.

32. Treaty bodies are well placed to support the mainstreaming of disaster risk management. In that context, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is engaged in the development of draft general recommendation on the gender-related dimensions and empowerment of women in disaster risk reduction and climate change. The ongoing work of the International Law Commission on the protection of persons in the event of disasters is also of importance.

33. Increasingly, disaster risk reduction features in relevant international frameworks related to sustainable development, climate and the environment. An

example is the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, which considers disaster risk in the context of small island developing States, as does the follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. Moreover, recent developments in multilateral environmental agreements present opportunities to engage the environment sector and its expertise in supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework, notably the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, whose parties recently adopted resolutions that promote ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction and enhancing linkages with national biodiversity action plans and sustainable wetlands management, respectively. Disaster risk reduction features in the sustainable development goals and targets under negotiation, and it is critical that specific and concrete references remain in the final outcome to ensure coherence in the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the post-2015 development agenda.

34. Ensuring coherence and mutual reinforcement of disaster risk reduction in other post-2015 international agreements and processes will also be necessary. This can be done in several ways, such as by recognizing the Sendai Framework and its outcomes in future international agreements, promoting and prioritizing programmes and partnerships that yield multiple benefits across agreements, and aligning targets, indicators and monitoring and reporting requirements.

35. I welcome the establishment by the General Assembly of an open-ended intergovernmental expert working group, supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, with the involvement of stakeholders, for the development of a set of indicators to measure progress against the seven global targets in the Sendai Framework and to update the report entitled "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction". The working group's expected outcome has the potential to contribute to a coherent approach in implementing international frameworks.

36. Building on the most recent quadrennial comprehensive policy review, the United Nations system will continue to strengthen linkages between its normative and operational work as it relates to disaster risk reduction. This is particularly relevant as the United Nations system supports the nationally led efforts of developing countries to better integrate disaster risk reduction and to implement the Sendai Framework. The next cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review will enable States to consider how to further adapt United Nations operational activities for development to ensure that greater emphasis is placed on managing disaster risks in the context of sustainable development.

37. At the World Conference, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination committed to integrating disaster risk reduction in programmes and operations of the system. The system's commitment to prioritizing disaster risk reduction at the strategic and operational levels was reaffirmed, as was its readiness to support States in the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The United Nations system now measures how effectively disaster and climate risk are addressed within United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, with resident coordinators accountable for coordination on disaster risk reduction within United Nations country teams. Currently, 79 per cent of the Frameworks include disaster risk reduction.

38. Following the endorsement of the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience by the Chief Executives Board in April 2013, the system has committed to reviewing the Plan of Action in the light of the Sendai Framework, to develop minimum standards for implementation and to build coherence within the Plan of Action and support the sustainable development goals and other relevant instruments. The revised Plan of Action is expected to be presented to the Chief Executives Board for endorsement in 2016. In advance of the review, a progress report on the outcomes of the United Nations system's work on disaster risk reduction since the adoption of the Plan of Action will be submitted to the High-level Committee on Programmes.

39. Mainstreaming climate and disaster risk is an increasingly important priority for the international financial institutions. The World Bank has committed to screening all International Development Association projects for climate and disaster risk; incorporating climate and disaster risk considerations into all new country partnership frameworks; and introducing a co-benefits tracking system for disaster risk management funding. In financial year 2014, 80 per cent of country partnership frameworks were risk-informed, 44 per cent of World Bank projects considered climate and disaster risk, and disaster risk management and climate change adaptation co-benefits reached $5.9 billion.

V. Regional cooperation for disaster risk reduction

40. Regional intergovernmental organizations will play a critical role in the transition from the Hyogo Framework for Action to the Sendai Framework. Over the past decade, regional intergovernmental organizations have been instrumental in advancing disaster risk reduction at the national level through the development of strategies and mechanisms. The opportunity now exists to review them to ensure that they foster more efficient planning, enhance the development and dissemination of science-based methodologies and tools, create common information systems, develop and disseminate instruments, such as standards, codes and operational guides, exchange good practices and support programmes for cooperation and capacity development in line with the Sendai Framework. Regional platforms provide a space for States to lead that work and to leverage existing partnerships and establish new ones in support of the Sendai Framework's implementation.

Africa

41. In Africa, there are now 32 national platforms for disaster risk reduction; 32 countries have reported on progress in implementing the priorities under the Hyogo Framework for Action; 73 cities and towns are participating in the Making Cities Resilient campaign; and 15 countries have functional national disaster loss databases, while 5 more are under development. The outcome statement of the Fifth Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Abuja in 2014, was endorsed by the African Union Executive Council at its twenty-sixth ordinary session, held in January 2015, and reflected in the outcomes of the third session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology, held on 13 and 14 February 2015 in Praia, and the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held from 4 to 6 March 2015 in Cairo. In the statement, it was recognized that most disasters in Africa were water-related and that efforts were needed to prevent conflict as part of overall efforts to build resilience to disasters.

The impact of climate change on urban areas was recognized, as was the need for disaster-sensitive physical planning, enforcement of building codes and investments in resilient urban infrastructure, which can be applied to prevent the accumulation of further risks.

42. Stakeholder leadership was demonstrated at various levels in Africa. Parliamentarians took the lead in forming a caucus on disaster risk reduction in Kenya. African youth delegates actively led the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and participated in an innovative initiative with the non-governmental organization Peace Boat that enhanced awareness of urban resilience and risk-sensitive tourism. The International Day for Disaster Reduction in 2014 was celebrated in several countries with the active participation of older persons, culminating in a three-day global event in South Africa on the contribution of older persons in the prevention, mitigation and reduction of disasters.

43. As a follow-up to the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the seventh meeting of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction, which included a high-level segment, was held from 21 to 23 July 2015. It was led by the African Union Commission, with support from the United Nations, and hosted by the Government of Cameroon and the secretariat of the Economic Community for Central African States. The meeting reviewed the Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in the light of the Sendai Framework. A series of subregional platforms are also planned.

Arab States

44. In the Arab States, there are 17 national platforms for disaster risk reduction; 15 countries have reported on progress in implementing the priorities under the Hyogo Framework for Action; 293 cities and towns are participating in the Making Cities Resilient campaign; and 10 countries have functional national disaster loss databases that take into account issues specific to the region, such as water scarcity, drought and climate change. The League of Arab States has regularly provided the legislative support and guidance needed to advance the disaster risk management agenda in the Arab region.

45. Collaboration with the League of Arab States and the Government of Egypt led to the holding of the Second Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in September 2014. The Conference resulted in the adoption of the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction, which was endorsed by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment. Region-specific voluntary commitments were made by the Arab participants at the Conference. The Declaration calls for a strong focus on addressing water and food security, the effects of climate change and extreme weather events, and the establishment of an Arab science and technology network.

46. A regional preparatory meeting will be held in September 2015 in coordination with the League of Arab States to integrate the new elements of the Sendai Framework into the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020. A ministerial-level meeting is planned for the first half of 2016, to ensure that Arab implementation of the Sendai Framework benefits from strong political support.

Asia and the Pacific

47. In Asia and the Pacific, there are 17 national platforms for disaster risk reduction; 40 countries have reported on progress in implementing the priorities under the Hyogo Framework for Action; 651 cities and towns are participating in the Making Cities Resilient campaign; and 26 countries have functional national disaster loss databases. An Asian Partnership on Disaster Reduction meeting of 17 countries was held in Bangkok in June 2015 to discuss the regional implementation of the Sendai Framework. Governments and stakeholders agreed to develop a regional road map and policy guidance for Sendai Framework implementation, to work on country reports on the current status of disaster risk reduction and to prepare development sector briefing materials and support the engagement of development policymakers and practitioners.

48. The next Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be hosted by India in New Delhi from 14 to 18 November 2016, will seek to strengthen the Conference as a regional platform. A ministerial-level meeting is due in November 2015 to discuss a road map for Asia to implement the Sendai Framework, which will be presented at the Conference in 2016. The focus will be on strengthening the role of intergovernmental organizations and developing implementation plans at the national and local levels.

49. The Strategy for Climate and Disaster-Resilient Development in the Pacific was adopted at the 2014 Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, held from 2 to 4 June. It was presented at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa from 1 to 4 September 2014, and in which disaster risk reduction featured prominently. Expected to be endorsed by Pacific leaders in September 2015, the Strategy will closely link implementation and reporting in support of the Sendai Framework in the Pacific. The next Pacific regional disaster risk reduction meeting will be held in October 2015 in Suva. Meanwhile, businesses and small locally owned hotels are working to improve their resilience through the introduction of business continuity planning.

50. Governments in the Central Asia and South Caucasus region convened a regional ministerial meeting on disaster risk reduction in Bishkek in January 2015 and committed to developing, assessing and monitoring regional and national programmes. A ministerial forum will be held in April 2016 to assess disaster risk reduction baselines and consider a regional plan of action to implement the Sendai Framework.

Europe

51. There are 27 national platforms for disaster risk reduction in Europe, and 26 countries have submitted Hyogo Framework for Action monitoring reports at least once. A total of 601 cities and towns are participating in the Making Cities Resilient campaign. At present, four countries have functional national disaster loss databases. The European Council adopted five separate conclusions on the communication of the Sendai Framework concerning risk management capability, disability-inclusive disaster management, the role of the private sector in development, and the sustainable development goals. All conclusions demonstrate a shift from a response-centred to a prevention-centred approach. The European Parliament, through its disaster risk reduction network, stimulated discussions on disaster resilience within the context of sustainable development. The European

Union is formally proposing the adoption of the loss and damage indicators and methodology developed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, guaranteeing compatibility with non-European Union countries that maintain national disaster loss databases.

52. Building on the positive peer review process initiated by the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction and financially supported by the European Commission, the European Commission has developed a peer review programme conducting national peer reviews on topics related to disaster risk management in Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Malta, Poland and Turkey in 2015 and 2016. The European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, launched guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management within the Sendai Framework.

53. Following the adoption of the Sendai Framework, Europe is developing a road map for its implementation to be adopted at the sixth annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, which will be held from 7 to 9 October 2015 in Paris and will include a ministerial session. Regional organizations are moving forward in planning the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The Council of Europe will organize a ministerial session focusing on developing a four-year programme on disaster risk management based on the Sendai Framework, while the European Commission will have developed an action plan by 2016.

54. The fifth annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 6 to 8 October 2014 in Madrid, agreed to conduct biennial open forum meetings hosted by the European Commission to increase knowledge-sharing on advances in disaster risk reduction; and to develop a road map on common areas of engagement in addressing the implementation of the Sendai Framework. It agreed on the nomination of Finland and Turkey as the future chair and co-chair, respectively, following the chairmanship of France in 2015; and on an outcome document highlighting the essential role of local awareness action, climate change adaptation, risk governance, flood loss reduction, the rights of persons with disabilities, and increased sharing of knowledge, experiences and good practices.

Americas

55. In the Americas, there are 23 national platforms for disaster risk reduction; 32 countries have reported on progress in implementing the priorities under the Hyogo Framework for Action; 822 cities and towns are participating in the Making Cities Resilient campaign; and 27 countries have functional national disaster loss databases. Building on regional and national efforts towards the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in the Americas, the fifth meeting of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, to be held in 2016, will bring together representatives to consider the implications of the Sendai Framework, including the alignment of national disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and plans. Regional intergovernmental organizations across the Americas are expected to take similar action.

56. The third Consultative Forum of the Central American Policy for Integrated Risk Management, held on 18 and 19 June 2015 in El Salvador, stressed the

importance of integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction as part of implementing the Sendai Framework.

57. The region established a Latin American network of ministries of finance for disaster risk reduction, with support from the United Nations, to promote the wider integration of disaster risk-informed investment practices in public investment planning and expenditure. Through the network, countries offer peer-to-peer assistance in developing capacities within the ministries of economy and finance in Central America and the Caribbean to incorporate disaster risk considerations into national public investment systems.

VI. Global initiatives, stakeholder engagement and partnerships

Global risk modelling and knowledge

58. The United Nations and its partners supported 30 countries in ensuring that multi-hazard disaster and climate risk assessments inform development planning. Support was given to the establishment of pilot risk reduction management centres in the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the British Virgin Islands, with technical support from Cuba in an example of South-South cooperation. In Asia and the Pacific, capacities to assess climate risk implications for key economic sectors were strengthened. The Global Education and Training Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Republic of Korea has trained 2,082 government officials from 74 countries on integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change into development policy.

Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready"

59. To date, the Making Cities Resilient: "My city is getting ready" campaign has 2,550 participating cities. The campaign tools, namely the Local Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor, the "10 essentials" and the disaster resilience scorecard, have provided municipalities with the means to better understand and manage disaster risk. The total population of all cities and local governments committed to the campaign's 10 essentials for building local resilience now stands at 700 million. There are now 54 role model cities. The city-to-city learning model has also been increasing in popularity as a mechanism for city officials to share their technical experiences and lessons.

Parliamentarian initiative

60. Currently, 1,850 parliamentarians from 163 countries are engaged in the parliamentarian initiative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. More than 30 legislators from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America are disaster risk reduction champions, advocating the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the legislative and oversight work of parliaments. In 2014, the 130th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly adopted a resolution in which it called upon parliamentarians to integrate disaster risk reduction into national planning and budgeting processes.

61. At the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, parliamentarians committed to taking action to obtain support for the Sendai Framework, strengthen legislative frameworks and conduct regular reviews and

updates of legislation. Parliamentarians also pledged their support to the initiative of the International Law Commission to propose a draft treaty concerning disaster risk reduction, making it a duty of States to reduce disaster risk and elevating the right of people to be free from the effects of disasters to the level of international customary law.

Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools

62. The Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools, a government-led global partnership for advancing safe school implementation at the national level, was presented and endorsed at the World Conference. The endorsement followed a first meeting of Safe School Leaders hosted by Turkey in October 2014, during which the Istanbul road map was initiated. The Initiative aims to support countries in implementing safe learning facilities, school disaster management and the incorporation of disaster risk reduction and resilience in education. The second meeting of Safe School Leaders is scheduled to be hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 and 5 October 2015. The Global Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in the Education Sector, consisting of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, Save the Children, Plan International, World Vision and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, supports that work.

Safe hospitals initiative

63. At the World Conference, the World Health Organization launched the Comprehensive Safe Hospital Framework, built on the achievements of 79 countries that have assessed the safety of more than 4,000 health facilities and implemented concrete actions to make hospitals safe and operational in times of emergency. That Framework, combined with the launch of the second edition of the Hospital Safety Index, is expected to play a vital role in enabling countries to reach the Sendai Framework target on reducing damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.

United for Disaster Resilience Initiative

64. The United for Disaster Resilience Initiative supports the inclusion of the private sector in the Sendai Framework and articulates the role of the insurance industry as risk managers, risk carriers and institutional investors, in line with the five private sector visions for a resilient future developed by the Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Partnership of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Insurance Industry Commitments Initiative provides a platform for insurers to exercise leadership through concrete actions spanning risk management, insurance products, investment, partnerships and disclosure frameworks that support disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, financial inclusion, sustainable investment, and accountability and transparency.

Early warning and preparedness

65. The need for an international initiative to further strengthen and spread the use of multi-hazard, end-to-end, early warning systems as an integral part of efforts by

countries to reduce their exposure to disasters and adapt to climate change has been identified in the Sendai Framework target to "substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030". This reinforces the demand for the Global Framework for Climate Services. Concerned States and partners are developing international initiatives to be launched at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Paris in December 2015, through the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, which my Office is undertaking with the Peruvian and French presidencies of the Conference of the Parties and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The 10-year anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami, a disaster that killed more than 200,000 people and devastated coastal communities across Asia and parts of Africa, was marked throughout the world on 24 December 2014. While significant progress has been made in early warning, public awareness and education, subsequent tsunamis in Japan and Pacific States highlight the need for continuing improvement.

International Day for Disaster Reduction

66. As part of the five-year "Step up" campaign, the 2014 International Day for Disaster Reduction focused on the role of older persons in building disaster resilience. With the slogan "Resilience is for life!", the International Day brought attention to older persons as active agents of resilience; the campaign generated 4.5 million tweets on Twitter. With HelpAge International, two surveys were conducted on ageing and disaster risk reduction. The survey results concluded that older persons had capabilities to prepare themselves for disasters and needed to be more integrated into disaster risk reduction community plans. The 2015 International Day will highlight the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge in disaster risk reduction and will complete the "Step up" campaign, which previously focused on children, women and girls, people living with disabilities and older persons.

United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction

67. The Sendai Framework calls for the development of effective instruments for public awareness and education, noting among others the Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Award gives recognition to best practices and innovative thinking on disaster risk reduction. The 2015 laureate was selected for "enduring and influential individual efforts", including three decades of teaching and research with an imprint on disaster risk reduction policy.

Disaster risk-informed investments

68. Since the launch of the "R!SE" initiative at United Nations Headquarters in 2014, 10 businesses, Governments, non-governmental organizations and science networks have joined the effort as active partners or expressed their support. In a number of events across the Americas, Asia and Europe, exchanges have been initiated between cities and Governments, businesses and investors, international agencies and disaster risk management experts and concrete activities started at the local, national and global levels. The initiative builds on the work of the Disaster Risk Reduction Private Sector Partnership in joining together business,

Government, academia and civil society in order to make private and public investments risk-sensitive.

69. Efforts to integrate disaster risks into the financial system and economic decision-making continued. Bringing together a coalition of accounting organizations, insurance industry entities, financial regulators, credit rating agencies and science leaders, the aim of the initiative is to optimize disaster risk reduction by reinforcing financial resilience, maintaining economic stability and promoting appropriate regulation. Presented at the United Nations Climate Summit in 2014 and the World Conference, the initiative has resulted in commitments, including on the part of the insurance industry, to integrating disaster and climate risk considerations into all asset classes and to doubling disaster and climate-sensitive investments to $84 billion by the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties and increasing them tenfold, to $420 billion, by 2020.

Post-disaster needs assessments

70. Under the tripartite partnership of the European Union, the World Bank and the United Nations, the post-disaster needs assessment methodology and the Guide to Developing Disaster Recovery Frameworks were launched at the World Conference. During the reporting period, post-disaster needs assessments with detailed sector- and area-based recovery plans with costs, implementation strategies and time frame have been completed for the volcanic eruption in Cabo Verde, the floods in Malawi and Mozambique, the earthquake in Nepal and the tropical cyclone in Vanuatu and, for the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The results inform extensive government and multilateral recovery programmes.

Scientific and Technical Advisory Group

71. At the World Conference, a scientific and technical partnership for the implementation of the Sendai Framework was launched, building on the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group and including experts and scientists from all regions. The partnership will be open to major governmental or non-governmental scientific and technical institutes or organizations, the United Nations, research centres, networks and platforms that will respond to a call to commit to the implementation of the Sendai Framework. The first science and technology cooperation partnership conference will be held early in 2016.

VII. Funding of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

72. For the biennium 2014-2015, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction set a resource target of $70 million to fulfil its work, with a possibility of an increase to up to $80 million. In November 2014, the Office issued a funding update reflecting global requirements for the biennium 2014-2015 of $80 million, which included the organization of regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and, chiefly, of the World Conference, including its preparatory process.

73. In the past 10 years, voluntary contributions to the Office more than quadrupled, and the number of donors grew from 19 to 28. Against a backdrop of

global economic crisis and shrinking aid budgets, that increase is indicative of the importance of the work of the Office.

74. In order to secure more predictability, stability and timeliness in funding, 11 multi-year agreements were signed during the biennium 2014-2015. Work has also continued to secure increases in unearmarked funding, where possible on a multi-year basis.

75. Following the adoption of the Sendai Framework and the need to kick-start its implementation, efforts to raise the required funds in voluntary contributions continue. Already, in 2014, the General Assembly, in its resolution 69/219, recognized the growing demands on the Office and its need for increased, timely, stable and predictable resources and requested the Secretary-General to recommend options to enable the Office to effectively coordinate the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

76. Relying on extrabudgetary resources for the coordination of the implementation of the Sendai Framework may not be sufficient, however, given that challenges remain in raising predictable, stable and timely funds solely through voluntary contributions. The regular budget of the United Nations provides for one position at the D-1 level. In order to strengthen the capacity of the Office in a stable and predictable manner, there would thus be a need for Member States to consider increasing resources for the Office in the assessed regular programme budget.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

77. The Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its preparatory process and outcome, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, represent a turning point with regard to how disasters and their causes need to be addressed in future.

78. The Sendai Framework opens a new phase, and its key messages are: (a) the shift of the primary focus from managing disasters to managing risk; (b) the need to develop and implement sectoral policies and instruments, including on investments, at the local, national, regional and global levels, which in themselves prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing risk and strengthen resilience; and (c) the need for new collaborative models across public and private stakeholders and in international cooperation.

79. Disaster risk reduction will not happen simply through the implementation of the Sendai Framework, but rather through the implementation of all instruments related to sustainable development, growth, environment, climate change and relief interpreted through the approach put forward by the Sendai Framework and with all stakeholders taking their share of the responsibility. While disaster risk reduction is the primary responsibility of the State and all its institutions, it requires an all-of-society engagement and a clear articulation of responsibilities across all stakeholders. Accountability for risk creation in itself, besides for disasters, is the agreed upon call of the Sendai Framework, and the ongoing work of the International Law Commission on the protection of persons in the event of disasters is a critical contribution in that direction.

80. By the end of 2015, there will be a new set of international policy instruments concerning disaster risk reduction, financing for development, sustainable

development and climate change. Coherence in implementation will be required and will constitute a major challenge that will demand goodwill and cooperation across all stakeholders, both public and private. The ongoing work to develop indicators with which to measure progress in the implementation of future instruments is an opportunity to foster such coherence.

81. The existing mechanisms for cooperation in disaster risk reduction, such as the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the regional and national platforms, will be essential in supporting the coherent development and implementation of policies and practices across sectors and in monitoring disaster risk trends. Their integrated functioning and deliberations will be a critical source of information on which the United Nations governance bodies' deliberations and policy guidance can be based.

82. The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience will be revised to reflect the expectations on the United Nations system to support States and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction will be strengthened to meet those expectations.

83. In the light of the above, it is recommended that:

(a) Over the next three years, States carry out stocktaking on disaster risk management practices and give priority to the assessment of disaster risk and the development of baselines to assess disaster risk trends;

(b) States give priority to the development of national and local disaster risk reduction policies, strategies and plans over the next five years with the participation of all stakeholders;

(c) States give due consideration to the establishment or strengthening of national mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, such as national platforms for disaster risk reduction, in the light of the characteristics indicated in the Sendai Framework;

(d) States actively participate in the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology on disaster risk reduction;

(e) States consider disaster risk indicators in the relevant systems to measure progress on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and goals, climate change and other relevant instruments;

(f) States take into account the periodic progress reviews of the Sendai Framework in the context of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to the United Nations conferences and summits and in the relevant deliberations of the Economic and Social Council, including the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(g) States enhance international cooperation and the provision of means of implementation to support developing countries in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, in particular the assessment of disaster risk and the development of baselines to assess disaster risk trends, and in that context make bilateral and multilateral development assistance programmes risk-informed;

(h) States consider augmenting their financial contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and increasing the assessed regular programme budget to ensure timely, stable and predictable support for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.